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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 01, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
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HEADLINES

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No EU Condition for Turkey to Recognize Cyprus - Sabah
Marc Grossman is New Advisor for Ihlas Holding - Sabah
Ankara Warns on Kirkuk Portion of Iraqi Constitution - Sabah
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Ambassador Edelman: Erdogan's Approach on Iraq is Right -
Milliyet
Diplomatic Initiative on Roj-TV - Milliyet
Abizaid and Jones to Visit Turkey for PKK Talks - Milliyet
Suicide Bomb Panic in Iraq, 852 Dead - Aksam
US Generals to Visit Turkey to Discuss PKK - Aksam
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OPINION MAKERS

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IOC: 'Modernization is Only Way Out for Islamic World' -
Zaman
One Rumor, and 1,000 Dead - Yeni Safak
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Turkmen Leaders Unhappy About Kirkuk Provision - Yeni Safak
Occupation in Iraq Costs US More than Vietnam - Yeni Safak
FM Gul to London to Lobby for October 3 - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

EU Accession: All papers report that at a meeting in
Brussels yesterday, EU Ambassadors agreed to release a
counter-declaration in response to Ankara's declaration
stating that Turkey's signing of the EU accession protocol
does not imply recognition of Cyprus. The foreign ministers
of the EU countries will decide today on the final wording
of the counter-declaration today at a meeting in Wales.
"Milliyet" reports that Turkey will not be asked by the EU
to recognize Cyprus, but "Cumhuriyet" notes that the
declaration will call on Turkey to fully implement its
customs union agreement with EU countries by opening its
ports and airports to Greek Cypriot vessels and planes.
"Hurriyet" notes that the Greek Cypriots are not satisfied
by the current draft of the counter-declaration and have
threatened to veto the start of accession talks with Turkey.
Foreign Minister Gul will fly to the UK today to attend the
EU Foreign Ministers' meeting as a special guest, and to
lobby EU foreign ministers on the October 3 accession talks.
"Hurriyet" says that EU countries will make certain demands
of Turkey during this meeting. France and Cyprus will
reportedly urge Turkey to announce a timetable for opening
its ports to Greek Cypriot vessels. Greece will demand that
Aegean territorial violations be mentioned in the EU
framework document. France and Austria will call on the EU
to mention a 'privileged partnership' for Turkey as an
alternative to full membership.

Orhan Pamuk Could Face 3-Year Jail Term: Charges have been
filed against Turkish novelist Orhan Pamuk for comments he
made to a Swiss newspaper, in which he said that '30,000
Kurds and a million Armenians were killed in Anatolia, but
no can talk about that.' Pamuk is being charged with
'humiliating the Turkish identity.' If convicted, the
writer could face up to 3 years in prison. The first
hearing in Pamuk's case will take place December 16 in
Istanbul.

Ankara Comments on Iraqi Constitution: MFA spokesman Namik

Tan commented on the Iraqi Constitution as part of his weekly press conference. Tan warned yesterday that `the struggle to dominate Kirkuk could turn into a clash or conflict that could spread throughout all of Iraq. If the UN were to take an active role in the process, that would be a guarantee for the resolution of competing claims in Kirkuk and for the prevention of a manipulation of the process.' Tan noted that the draft constitution could be implemented successfully only if it were accepted by all segments of the Iraqi population. Responding to a question regarding Iraq's federal structure, Tan said `we do not recognize a region called Kurdistan. Everyone knows that there is no such region.' Tan added that, in general, the constitution satisfactorily protects the rights of the Turkmen minority in Iraq.

US Generals to Visit Turkey: All papers report that CENTCOM Commander General John Abizaid and EUCOM Commander General James Jones visit Ankara September 8-9 to discuss PKK terrorism with their counterparts in the Turkish military. Turkish Military officials have said they don't expect a concrete resolution to the problem to emerge from the meeting. The military sources said their expectation is to learn from the US commanders what non-military steps the US is prepared take to address the PKK threat in Iraq. The sources stressed that such steps should be tied to a specific timetable.

Danish PM Spokesman Says He is `Unaware' of PKK-Affiliated Media: Several papers report that a spokesman for Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen, when asked to comment on claims that Denmark is allowing ROJ-TV, a PKK-affiliated station, to broadcast from its territory, claimed that he was `unaware' that the PKK had requested permission to broadcast in Denmark. `If that is the case, and if the PKK were to broadcast from Danish territory, then that would fall under Denmark's anti-terrorism laws. It would then be a matter for the police and the Ministry of Justice,' the spokesman added.

Turkish General Staff Denies General Ozkok Remarks on Government: The Turkish General Staff (TGS) issued a written statement yesterday denying press reports that TGS Chief General Hilmi Ozkok had said he was `very pleased with the Turkish government's handling of the terrorism issue.' According to the TGS statement, the reports `do not reflect reality, as the Chief of General Staff scrupulously refrains from commenting on political issues.'

Air Force Commander Affirms Ties Between Turkish State, Hizbullah: In a front-page story, "Milliyet" reports that General Faruk Comert, Commander of the Turkish Air Force, has said that he warned the Governor of Diyarbakir back in the 1990s of the danger of `using another organization, such as Turkish Hizbullah,' in the struggle against the PKK in southeast Turkey. The paper claims this is the first time that the long-rumored ties between the Turkish state and the terrorist Hizbullah have been acknowledged by a senior Turkish official.

Seven DEHAP Officials Arrested for Attending Funeral of PKK Terrorist: "Zaman" and "Cumhuriyet" report that seven officials of pro-Kurdish DEHAP were detained for participating in the funeral of a Syrian terrorist killed in clashes with security forces in the Black Sea cities of Trabzon and Macka on August 21. The suspects were accused of spreading PKK propaganda and praising PKK terrorist actions.

Ambassador Edelman Comments: "Milliyet" reports that former US Ambassador Eric Edelman, who is now the third man at the Pentagon, attended the Victory Day reception at the Turkish Embassy in Washington. Edelman praised PM Erdogan's article that appeared in the Wall Street Journal, saying that the Prime Minister's approach on the Iraq issue is `the right one.' Responding to journalists' comments on the apparent improvement in Turkish-American relations, Edelman joked that `now that I have left Turkey, things are going better.'

Reuters Cameraman Held At Abu-Ghraib: "Hurriyet" reports that Reuters cameraman Ali Omer Ibrahim Meshadani, who was arrested by US forces in Ramadi on August 8, will be kept in Abu-Ghraib prison for 6 months while he awaits trial. The US-Iraqi Joint Investigation Office ruled that Meshadani presents a threat for the Iraqi people, and therefore denied his release. The cameraman will not be allowed to see his lawyers or family members during his first 60 days in prison.

Former US Ambassador Grossman to Work For IHLAS: "Sabah" reports that former US Ambassador Marc Grossman has signed a contract for \$100,000 to serve as a consultant for the IHLAS Holding Group. Grossman ended his 29-year diplomatic career when he retired from the State Department earlier this year.

EDITORIAL OPINION: The Iraq Constitution

"A New Source of Terror"

Sami Kohen commented in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (9/1): "It is unclear whether the Baghdad bridge disaster occurred as the result of a pre-planned suicide attack or simply panic based on rumors. The ongoing tension in Iraq and the never-ending attacks make the general atmosphere very suitable for provocations. Regardless of the cause, this tragedy is likely to deepen the existing gap between the Sunnis and the Shiites. . The incident also shows that, given the current feeling of insecurity and the atmosphere of tension, implementation of the constitution will not be easy, even if the draft is approved at referendum. The political system for Iraq as laid out in the constitution requires a good level of mutual understanding and harmony between the various religious and ethnic groups. The current tension between Iraq's Sunnis and Shiites makes it hard to envision a situation in which the federal structure can be put into effect. The leaders of the ethnic and religious groups in Iraq must act with common sense and in a cold-blooded manner, because they have the responsibility to lead their followers to the right path."

"Country of Disasters"

Yilmaz Oztuna observed in the conservative "Turkiye" (9/1): "Iraq has turned into a country of disasters. The tragedy on the Tigris river bridge has become the latest in this chain of disasters. . Historically, Iraq has never been a land of peace and stability. Currently, the Iraqis are engaged in a struggle over the constitution. But nothing can possibly heal the wounds of this country. As a matter of fact, nobody is happy with the new Iraqi constitution, with the possible exception of President Bush. There is no way to argue that this constitution represents a step toward serious democracy. Although the US intention is far from clear, it might be planning a civil war in Iraq. The Iraqi Kurds have gained the power to form a state, and Turkey's decision to deny support for US troops on March 1 paved the way for this development. The US will probably leave Iraq after working to ensure that the oil flow from the region is secured. Arabs will most likely remain aloof to the new Kurdistan. The same goes for Iran. . The Middle East is on the verge of new bad surprises. The events in Iraq will likely spread through the entire region, and have a negative effect on all concerned."

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